

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE:

President Mark G. Yudoff
Office of the President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

VIA FACSIMILE:

Mr. Jim Wells
UAW Region 5 Director
721 Dunn Road
Hazelwood, MO 63042

Dear President Yudoff and Director Wells:

As Members of Congress from the state of California, we are writing to urge the University of California and the United Auto Workers to negotiate expeditiously a first contract covering the 6,000 Postdoctoral Scholars who chose UAW representation last November.

Bargaining a first contract for Postdoctoral Scholars affords UC and the UAW the opportunity to set a national example for cooperative and productive labor relations in higher education. UC is a leader both in scientific research and in employing Postdoctoral Scholars. We understand that ten percent of all Postdoctoral Scholars in the United States work at the University, and they perform much of the research that makes the University great. A fair and expeditiously negotiated contract should be a high priority for the parties.

Scientific advances made or assisted by Postdoctoral Scholars, in areas ranging from treatment and prevention of disease to climate change and alternative energy, will not only improve our quality of life through innovations but will help stimulate the economy by opening up new areas and means for economic growth. Bargaining a fair first contract should facilitate and hasten these advances by improving the rights, working conditions, wages, and benefits of the Postdoctoral Scholars who do so much of the front-line research work of scientific inquiry. A fair first contract should also create a solid foundation for an ongoing and positive working relationship between the University and its Postdoctoral Scholars.

With the end of UC's fiscal year, June 30, 2009, fast approaching, we urge the parties to reach a fair and final agreement on a first contract expeditiously.

Thank you for your attention.

President Mark G. Yudoff and Mr. Jim Wells
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Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator

SAM FARR
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

LINDA SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress

PETE STARK
Member of Congress



JOE BACA
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress

LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress

MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress


LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress


JERRY MCNERNEY
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George Miller

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